

MEMBERS PRESENT

(attending by Webinar)

Dr. Andrew Beaty <i>Gubernatorial Appointee</i>	Dr. Robert Bloom <i>Gubernatorial Appointee</i>	Ms. Kathy Briseno <i>Legislative Designee</i>
Mr. Matt George <i>Legislative Designee</i>	Dr. Seth Harkins <i>Legislative Designee</i>	Ms. Carie Johnstone <i>Legislative Designee</i>
Ms. Judith Levitan <i>OAG</i>	Ms. Alicia Ozier <i>DCFS</i>	Ms. Rahnee Patrick Ms. Michelle Scott-Terven <i>DHS/DRS</i>
Mr. Mark Smith <i>DJJ</i>	Ms. Julie Stremlau <i>DHS/DFCS</i>	Mr. Neal Takiff <i>Gubernatorial Appointee</i>
Ms. Abbey Storey <i>ISBE</i>	Mr. Neal Takiff <i>Gubernatorial Appointee</i>	Dr. Constance Y. Williams <i>DHS/DMH</i>
Mr. Robert B. Williams <i>HFS</i>		

MEMBERS ABSENT

Merlin Lehman
Gubernatorial Appointee

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Nancy Aguirre
Regional Coordinator

Ms. Kristin Gharst
Regional Coordinator

Ms. Lynn Lowder Coffey
Operations Manager

Ms. Mindy Monti
Office Manager

Ms. Debbi Smith
Executive Director

Mr. Robert Watts
Regional Coordinator

LIAISONS PRESENT

Angela Zajac, IAASE

GUESTS

Cesar Madrigal

Mr. Uli Senz
Lake Genessee

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by Chairperson Dr. Bloom.

Membership: Dr. Bloom announced that our new representative from HFS is Mr. Robert B. Williams.

In addition, Dr. Bloom noted that two applicants called to inquire about the position to replace Gary Seelbach as a Gubernatorial appointee. One of those individuals sent in their application, the other did not.

MOTION: *Matt George moved, and Neal Takiff seconded the motion, that the meeting of the authority be called to order. The motion carried unanimously.*

Dr. Bloom began the meeting announcing the new Health and Family Services Appointee???

II. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2020 AUTHORITY MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the February 20, 2020 meeting. One date change was suggested for correction.

MOTION: *Dr. Harkins moved and Carie Johnstone seconded that the minutes of the February 20, 2020 Authority meeting be approved with minor corrections. The motion carried unanimously.*

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Smith discussed the impact of C-19 on the CRSA population and referrals. Referrals have declined during the pandemic. It is anticipated that when school resumes, the referrals will increase. Staff of CRSA are using this time to stay in close contact with their high risk clients. The CRSA staff are also attending staffing's and seminars online. This time has allowed them to sharpen their knowledge on systems changes and updates that effect the families we serve. Director Smith also reviewed the 2019 Annual Report. She asked for feedback and comments to be emailed to her before next board meeting in August. If no significant changes are made, we will vote on the annual report in August. Board members voiced that this document would be useful to send to Legislators, school districts and children's mental health consortiums, all of whom have a special interest in children's mental health. (Further discussion on this topic listed in the agenda item entitled Annual Report.)

CRSA/Ms. Smith was requested to participate in the NB Paraprofessional Credentialing task force. This should lead to better community based one on one interventions for youth who need high end behavioral healthcare in the community. Lastly, Ms. Smith and Ms. Lowder testified in March in front of the House Elementary and Secondary Education Appropriation Committee to provide progress report. The Committee thanked us for the progress report. Ms. Smith announced that the remainder of the Director's Report will be covered in Committee Reports and Reports by the Office Manager, the Operations Manager and the Regional Coordinators Report.

IV. OFFICE MANAGER REPORT

Ms. Mindy Monti reported that the CRSA Client Entry Data and Retrieval “CEDAR”, is in the process of being updated to track additional barriers that staff have discussed and decided to add to our system for FY 21. She has been keeping the website up to date with changes as needed. Ms. Monti asked members if they wanted to add resources to the website to email her or call so she can add them. Staff are having discussions on starting a Facebook page. Ms. Monti and Ms. Lowder are looking into the details on how we might use Facebook to reach out to more families in Illinois. There was also discussion about asking Agencies to post the CRSA web link on their resources links.

V. OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORTED THE FOLLOWING:

Ms. Lynn Lowder, Operations Manager, reported the following:

Trainings: Ethics Training began on March 2 and ran through March 31, 2020. All staff and board members have completed the online training this year. I will be sending out an email with directions in July for the Sexual Harassment Training. It will be completed online the same way as the Ethics Training.

Budget Update: We plan on lapsing several thousand dollars due to the lack of travel by staff and from the delay of filling the Regional Coordinator position. Our FY 21 Appropriation is included in SB 262. CRSA’s budget remained the same at \$650,000.

Board Vacancies: Ms. Lowder emailed the Governor’s Office regarding CRSA’s two board vacancies. We have two people interested: Carolyn Blackwell, recommended by Gary Seelbach and Cesar Madrigal, recommended by Carie Johnstone. They are getting close to being back to a normal schedule with appointments and he has our candidates prepared to present to the Governor.

Legislative Update: CRSA has interest in several pieces of legislation. There has been little to no movement on these bills that Ms. Lowder is following for the board. The only bill that we are following that passed into law is SB 262 which was the appropriation bill for the state. Ms. Lowder also discussed the JCARE TITLE 23: Education and Cultural Resources section 1.285 requirements for the use of isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint. This subject is covered also by the Seclusion and Restraint Committee.

CRSA Regional Coordinator Community Outreach: Since July 2019 our Regional Coordinators have participated in over 114 outside engagements. They range from participating on committees, attending and testifying at legislative hearings, meetings with legislators, presentations, workshops, informational booths at community events and in the last few months, online webinar and teleconference meetings.

VI. CRSA REGIONAL COORDINATOR REPORT: Changing Lives by Kristin Gharst

Ms. Gharst reviewed a case that highlighted how she, as a CRSA Regional Coordinator, worked to bring a community team, community providers and the local education agency together to responsibly construct a unified plan of care for a high risk youth on her caseload. She did this all during the pandemic, via conference calls and online meetings using Zoom. The board thanked Ms. Gharst for the thoroughness of her interventions. Questions arose from board members that involved C - 19 concerns about residential facilities that treat youth in close quarters. Basically there was interest in how youth are kept safe from the C-19 virus.

Agencies and board members explained protective practices around Covid, such as: routine agency supervisory calls, data tracking on youth and staff to those who have tested positive, setting guidelines for facilities, protocols and standardize practices, etc. In addition, Mr. George shared how Peoria Children's Home is directly affected by this issue. He explained how their staff were heroic in how they implemented protective measures that kept their residential treatment population safe, through the quarantine and now, using CDC precautions.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Bloom reminded the board that at the last CRSA meeting it was proposed to have an annual Gary Seelbach Service Excellence Award to be voted on and given out annually to a board member who best exemplified Gary's legacy of service excellence and unconditional positive regard for youth, families and colleagues. He stated that we would like to have the vote and award occur once every year at the February meeting. CRSA Staff suggest February because it is when Gary retired and it will not conflict with other voting business of the Authority.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Selection of FY 21 Officers and Executive Committee

Chairperson Bloom suggested that we keep the same slate of officers due to the current situation. The Authority was in agreement but there was still a need to fill the position left vacant when DMH Lisa Betz left. Dr. Bloom ask Ms. Scott-Terven with DRS if she was interested in serving as the agency representative on the Executive Committee. She stated she needed to get permission but would be interested. *She got back with CRSA shortly after the board meeting and agreed to be the Alternate. Also Mr. Mark Smith with DJJ, was not able to un-mute due to technical glitches, but did confirm via email that he will be glad to serve another year.*

MOTION: *Matt George moved and Dr. Andrew Beatty seconded that the Executive Committee remain the same for FY 21. The motion carried unanimously.*

B. Approval of FY 21 Meeting Schedules

MOTION: *Dr. Seth Harkins moved and Neal Takiff seconded that the FY 21 Meeting Schedule be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.*

C. FY 19 Annual Report

Dr. Bloom announced that the 2019 Annual report is in draft. A copy was sent out via email with the minutes and agenda to all board members. He asked for comments and feedback. Then he stated that if any changes are proposed, to email their suggestions to Ms. Smith. The official vote on the Annual Report will occur at the August Board meeting.

Dr. Bloom also suggested we use the final version of the Annual Report as a marketing tool. Ms. Lowder suggested mailing sections of the report to interested Legislators. Formatting suggestions were made regarding pictures in the report to include non-client public domain pictures. All agreed to send their suggestions/samples to Ms. Smith which she will gladly add. Board members also gave feedback that Ms. Smith could extract certain data from the report to target a baseline for the goals on the strategic plan this fiscal year. Then they suggested that she report out to the board on the interventions set to meet those identified goals. They reiterated that this report should be used as a CRSA tool of information and be widely disseminated.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee Report: Chairperson Dr. Bloom stated the largest part of the Executive Committee discussion was how to use the Annual Report as a marketing tool. In regards to C-19, he also expressed that the committee discussed concerns regarding how youth with special needs are having their needs met during the pandemic considering the limited opportunities to social interactions and partial access to mental health services. The Executive Committee also discussed families living in inner city Chicago and elsewhere throughout the state who don't have computers for their children to access online educational instructional materials. In addition, the Executive Committee discussed that there are some children who live with parents who cannot teach them; therefore, may go without the FAPE (Free and Appropriate Public Education) altogether if school does not resume in the fall.

It was noted that some board members that families are concerned that their child's IEP has not been appropriately implemented during this pandemic. Some schools sent out waivers asking parents to waive their rights to FAPE (free and appropriate education) during this pandemic. A positive outcome of the lock down was noted. It was discussed that online instruction gives teachers the opportunity to show parents on how to support their children's education and a time for parents to become more involved in their children's school work.

Other discussion ensued regarding a concern over an increase in confusion and anxiety around compensatory education which may be a hot topic going into fall and winter. The committee discussed that we are not going to know the effects of remote learning until the youth are back in building and can be personally assessed and evaluated. There most likely will be some youth who will have regressed. Parents who work full time and aren't available to help their children may add to that regression. It was noted that not every parent in the state has the same capacity to support their children. Lastly it was noted that the lack of internet access in Southern Illinois is a huge issue for families. Some have resorted to paper packets which are reported by families to be cumbersome.

- B. Symposium Committee:** Neal Takiff, Chair of the committee, reported although great interest was expressed, the symposium has been delayed due to the pandemic. The need is still there but due to the Illinois revenue shortage and more pressing priorities, we need to rethink if the committee's suggested solutions are still viable. He suggested the committee reconvene and have these discussions but feels it's still a little premature right now. The board asked about the consideration of a virtual conference.
- C. Strategic Planning Committee:** Dr. Harkins, Chair of the committee, reported that the committee is on hold. He stated there is so much change going on right now and it's going to take time to see how things go this fall. It was generally agreed that setting any additional long term strategic planning goals may be premature until we can get a better idea of how the C19 effects the social services and CRSA's landscape.
- D. Seclusion/Restraint:** Dr. Bloom announced that the CRSA response to ISBE's emergency rule went out February 3, 2020 and the CRSA response to JCAR went out on the day CRSA had to close their office, March 16th. Neal Takiff J.D., Chair of the committee, reported proposed legislation if passed, may roll back what ISBE has implemented. He is going to monitor it for now but if this legislation passes, we should respond as an organization. Dr. Harkins, Co-Chair of the committee, stated once things reopen, serving youth may be a huge issue. He states that the monitoring by ISBE will need to be ongoing and increased. He is concerned that no clear compliance monitor has been identified. He opened up the discussion to question how we use force as a method of social control. We suggested the need to make local school districts accountable to accurately report the use of physical interventions and sanctions made when inappropriate.

Discussion ensued about administrative accountability. Other board members added that some level of reform remains necessary. It was discussed that there needs to be leadership and accountable of staff doing physical restraint beyond the standard courses given prior to using it. Concern over issue of implicit bias, stigma, the feeling of superiority, ostracism could be an issue in the restraints. In addition, the board discussed how race, religious belief, etc, should also be considered.

X. AGENCY REPORTS

Illinois State Board of Education - Abbey Storey reported:

I. COVID Pandemic

- a. All ISBE Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates and Resources are available at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/covid19.aspx>
- b. Special Education Resources available are linked below. Updates to the special education guidance are forthcoming regarding preparation for future transition to in-person instruction.
 - a. [Special Education FAQ](#)
 - b. [Remote Learning for Students with Autism and Spectrum Disorder](#)
 - c. [Remote Learning for Students with Significant Intellectual or Multiple Disabilities](#)
 - d. [Remote Learning for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired](#)
 - e. [Remote Learning for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing or DeafBlind](#)
- c. Submission to ISBE of any questions or concerns regarding the pandemic are requested to be sent to the established inbox of COVID19@isbe.net

II. Time Out and Physical Restraint

- a. Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) Time Out and Physical Restraint permanent rules effective April 9, 2020 are located at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ONEARK.pdf>
- b. ISBE is working with the Illinois Council of School Attorneys (ICSA) to complete revisions to the *Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions: Emergency Regulations for the Use of Time Out and Physical Restraint* in alignment with permanent regulations.

III. Projects

- a. Special Education Behavior Assessment and Training Project Grant
 - a. Three-year, \$47.5 million grant in providing professional development and assistance to districts to implement safe and student-centered behavioral interventions in compliance with recent changes to Illinois' rules regarding time out and physical restraint. The Project will center on supporting districts in conducting Functional Behavior Assessments and in developing and implementing effective Behavior Intervention Plans.
 - b. The awardee will conduct local, regional, and state workshops and conferences; host webinars; provide coaching; and employ a statewide cadre of licensed personnel to coach and work alongside special education personnel in Illinois schools. ISBE will partner with the selected awardee to identify the schools and districts in the greatest need.
 - c. Funding through federal IDEA discretionary funds.
 - d. Request for Sealed Proposals were due April 1, 2020 and proposals are presently under review.
- b. Interagency collaboration regarding educational and residential placements

- a. Illinois State Agencies Approved Residential Provider List

IV. Professional Development

- a. In compliance with Governor J. B. Pritzker's Restore Illinois Plan, ISBE will be cancelling the Special Education Directors Conference for 2020 originally scheduled for July 29-31, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois. The hotel will immediately release all convention space and guestroom space by Wednesday, May 13, 2020. All reservations in the block will be cancelled, and there is no need to contact the hotel. However, for guestrooms outside the block, contact the hotel directly to cancel.
- b. Working on Professional Development Calendar to offer other potential training opportunities.

V. Staffing

- a. Vacancy- Supervisor (Springfield)
- b. New Hire- Principal Consultant, Nonpublic Programming (Chicago-June 1, 2020)

DHS, Division of Mental Health – Dr. Constance Williams reported that as we all cope with the challenges of COVID19, the Division of Mental Health (DMH) is in contact with their providers as they seek new and creative ways, to safely treat individuals with Mental Illness. The overall majority of providers with DMH contracts are using Telehealth methods and their clients are receiving the services they need.

DHS, Division of Rehabilitation Services – No Report

DHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities – No Report

DHS, Division of Family and Community Services – No Report

Department of Juvenile Justice – In regard to the pandemic, DJJ started following all the recommended mitigating activities in March. DJJ did have a number of staff test positive in the northern part of the state, but due to the protocols put in place it has remained contained. In addition, we only had one youth in our Illinois Youth Centers test positive. Given the number of youth and staff they have, that is a pretty good record. All individuals are well and healthy. Because of the public safety issue all staff that deal with youth have continued to work with some restrictions put in place. DJJ is beginning to loosen those restrictions with facility staff and with our Aftercare Specialists.

DJJ is presently in the process of revamping the release process and looking to make it a more close to home model. Research shows that when youth who are incarcerated have engagement with their families they tend to do better in our centers, as well as, their transition back to their home community. DJJ is currently working with some of our partners and providers to explore transitioning youth into residential centers prior to their release date so they can receive services in their home communities while technically still considered under the custody of the Department. We are already doing this on a small scale through a process called Authorized Absence. DJJ is hoping to have a solid plan in place by the Fall but are already moving forward in some areas.

Healthcare and Family Services: No Report

Department of Children and Family Services: No Report

Attorney General – No Report

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

XII. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Dr. Constance Williams moved and Dr. Seth Harkins seconded that the Authority meeting be adjourned at 11:19 am. The motion carried unanimously.*